

*Equipping young people
to be engaged citizens*

e.news



Photo courtesy of [Brett Butterstein](#): MCC alumnus Brett Butterstein in San Francisco, Calif.

MCC Alumni in the Arts

Both of these MCC alumni remind us how rich an MCC experience truly is.

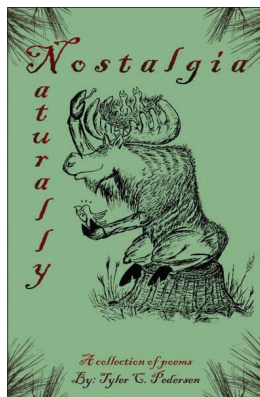
Each young man built trails, but each walked away with a better understanding of himself and his goals. We are proud of their accomplishments.

Brett Butterstein, Professional Photographer

"MCC provided me with a much-needed interim in my life where I could take a step back and take a fresh look at how things work in the world and to think about how I might fit into it," wrote Brett, a [Western Wildlands](#) crew leader in 1999. After leaving MCC, he worked as a journalism photographer and was published in major newspapers like the [New York Times](#) via the [Associated Press](#). Now married and a father, Brett lives in Durango, Colo., where he is self-employed as a [traveling wedding photographer](#). "My calling as a photographer was oddly strengthened while I was with MCC, even though we were in the mountains digging trail," he reflected. An avid mountain biker, Brett has remained active in a local trails advocacy group in Durango.

Tyler C. Pedersen, Author and Poet

Tyler, originally from Helena, MT, was a [Central Divide](#) corps member in 2006. He now lives in Portland, OR, and is finishing a second AmeriCorps term with the Northwest Service Academy. Tyler's poetry was published last year in his first book, [Nostalgia Naturally](#). He said his MCC experience, caring for the environment and helping others get involved, was fuel for several poems in his book. A copy can be purchased on the [web](#).



Community Support:

D.A. Davidson



[D.A. Davidson & Co.](#) is a four-year advocate for Montana's teenagers through the MCC's teen service program, MontanaYES. Its investment in young Montanans' futures is channeling kids' energy to improve our communities, and the youth couldn't be more excited about it. After her summer of service, a participant told us: "I learned that I am capable of being strong and a girl. I realized I didn't need makeup and some other things to look and feel like a girl. I also believe in myself and that anything is possible."

Leaders in Training



39 AmeriCorps members from across the U.S. began MCC's three-month leader development program this February. After an orientation, they are training in Wilderness Advanced First Aid, leadership competencies, and technical skills. Come summertime, they will lead crews into the backcountry, serving the land and the people who love it.